

FDA CONSUMER WARNING NOTIFICATION
(Bureau of Health System's 08/02/2007 E-mail)

The FDA is warning consumers not to eat certain canned food products or to serve certain dog food produced by Castleberry's Food Company of Augusta, Ga., due to possible botulism contamination.

Given the potentially fatal effects of botulism poisoning and the fact that over 90 products and 27 brands of food are potentially contaminated, CMS food service surveyors in their review of product inventory during a survey should be aware of the recall and the need for food service directors or their designees to carefully check their pantries and dispose of any recalled product immediately. These canned chili products, stew, hash, BBQ, gravy, and pet food all could cause life-threatening illness. Where the CMS surveyors interact with the food service operations in nursing homes and/or hospitals, we ask that this information be shared.

Castleberry's is recalling all of the potentially contaminated products and is cooperating with FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the states' investigations into the cause of contamination. The list of recalled products includes cans of hot dog chili sauce, various types of dog food, chili with meat, corned beef hash, and a number of other products.

In case any of the recalled products are in hospital or nursing home food service operations, FDA is contacting organizations such as CMS to make them aware of the recall and highlight the precautions needed for its disposal. The FDA has also shared this information with industry trade associations such as the American Hospital Association and the Dietary Managers Association.

As this is an on-going effort, information is updated frequently, sometimes within the same day. To ensure the most up-to-date information, the following web page link is provided.

*CFSAN web information can be found in multiple places on the web (under "What's New", "Press Announcement", and "Recalls"). See the web page link at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/castleberry.html#update> for the most recent information.